AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A transportation service system, comprising:

at least one Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite for transmitting information used to detect a position of a ~~moving~~ object;

at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ having a GPS terminal configured to ~~which~~ receives said information from said GPS satellite, to ~~and~~ detects a present location of said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ on the basis of said information and to ~~for~~ transmitt~~ing~~ present-location information regarding said detected present location and destination information indicating a destination specified by a customer; and

a center equipment configured to ~~for~~ receiv~~ing~~e said present-location information and destination information, to ~~for~~ find~~ing~~ an optimal route to obtain optimal-route information in accordance with said present-location information and destination information, and to ~~for~~ transmitt~~ing~~ information including, said optimal-route information, to said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~.

2. (currently amended): The~~A~~ transportation service system according to claim 1, wherein said center equipment is configured to calculates, in accordance with said present-

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location information and <u>said</u> destination information, a charge for said optimal route to obtain

charge information, and <u>to</u> transmits information, including said charge information, to said <u>at</u>

<u>least one vehicle</u>taxi.

3. (currently amended): A<u>The</u> transportation service system according to claim 2,

wherein said center equipment <u>is configured to</u> calculates, in accordance with said present-

location information and destination information, a distance from said present location to said

destination associated with said optimal route to obtain distance information, and <u>to</u> transmits

information, including said distance information, to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

4. (currently amended): The<u>A</u> transportation service system according to claim 3,

wherein said center equipment <u>is configured to</u> calculates, in accordance with said present-

location information and destination information, a required driving time associated with said

optimal route to obtain driving time information, and <u>to</u> transmits information, including said

driving time information, to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

5. (currently amended): The<u>A</u> transportation service system according to claim 4,

wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being

provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi,

said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi <u>is configured to</u> detects by said GPS terminal new present-

location information at the time of said change, and <u>to</u> transmits to said center equipment said

detected new present-location information and new destination information indicating said new

destination, and

said center equipment is configured to finds, in accordance with said new present-

location information and new destination information, a new optimal route to obtain new

optimal-route information, and to transmits information, including said new optimal-route

information, to said at least one vehicletaxi.

6. (currently amended): TheA transportation service system according to claim 5,

wherein said center equipment calculates, in accordance with said new present-location

information and new destination information, a charge for said new optimal route to obtain

charge information, and to transmits information including said charge information to said at

least one vehicletaxi.

7. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 6,

wherein said center equipment calculates, in accordance with said new present-location

information and new destination information, a distance from said new present location to said

new destination designated by said new optimal route to obtain distance information, and to

transmits information, including said distance information, to said at least one vehicletaxi.

8. (currently amended): TheA transportation service system according to claim 7,

wherein said center equipment calculates, in accordance with said new present-location

information and new destination information, a required driving time required by said at least one vehicletaxi, which is associated with said new optimal route, to obtain driving-time information, and to transmits information, including said driving-time information, to said at least one vehicletaxi.

9. (currently amended): A transportation service system, comprising:

at least one global positioning system (GPS) satellite for transmitting information used to detect a position of an moving object;

at least one vehicletaxi having a GPS terminal configured to which receives said information from said GPS satellite, to and detects a present location of said at least one vehicletaxi on the basis of said information, and to for transmitting present-location information regarding said detected present location and destination information indicating a destination specified by a customer; and

a center equipment configured to for receiving said present-location information and destination information, to for finding respective optimal routes for each of a plurality of different criteriaitems to obtain optimal-route information in accordance with said present-location information and destination information, and to and for transmitting information, including said optimal-route information, to said at least one vehicletaxi.

10. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 9, wherein said center equipment is configured to calculates, in accordance with said present-

location information and destination information, a charge for each of said optimal routes to

obtain charge information, and to transmits information, including said charge information, to

said at least one vehicletaxi.

11. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 10,

wherein said center equipment is configured to calculates, in accordance with said present-

location information and destination information, a distance from said present location to said

destination associated with each of said optimal routes to obtain distance information, and to

transmits information, including said distance information, to said at least one vehicletaxi.

12. (currently amended): TheA transportation service system according to claim 11,

wherein said center equipment is configured to calculates, in accordance with said present-

location information and destination information, a required driving time associated with each of

said optimal routes to obtain driving time information, and to transmits information, including

said driving time information, to said at least one vehicletaxi.

13. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 12,

wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being

provided by said at least one vehicletaxi,

said taxi detects by said GPS terminal is configured to detect new present-location

information at the time of said change, and to transmits to said center equipment said detected

new present-location information and new destination information indicating said new

destination, and

said center equipment is configured to find,s in accordance with said new present-

location information and new destination information,; respective new optimal routes for each of

said plurality of -different criteriaitems to obtain new items of optimal-route information, and to

transmits information, including each of said new items of optimal-route information, to said at

least one vehicletaxi.

14. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 13,

wherein said center equipment is configured to calculate,s in accordance with said new present-

location information and new destination information, a charge for each of said respective new

optimal routes to obtain charge information, and to transmits information, including said charge

information, to said at least one vehicletaxi.

15. (currently amended): TheA transportation service system according to claim 14,

wherein said center equipment is configured to calculate,s in accordance with said new present-

location information and new destination information, a distance from said new present location

to said new destination associated with each of said respective new optimal routes to obtain

distance information, and to transmit s-information, including said distance information, to said

at least one vehicletaxi.

16. (currently amended): The~~A~~ transportation service system according to claim 15, wherein said center equipment is configured to calculates, in accordance with said new present-location information and new destination information, a required driving time required by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~, which is associated with each of said respective new optimal routes, to obtain driving-time information, and to transmits information, including said driving-time information, to said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~.

17. (currently amended): ~~A~~The transportation service system according to claim 16, wherein said plurality of different criteria~~items~~ include charges for said respective optimal routes, a distance from said present location to said destination associated with said respective optimal routes, and a required driving time required by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ associated with said respective optimal routes.

18. (currently amended): A transportation service system according to claim 4, wherein said center equipment comprises:

a server configured to ~~for~~ communicating~~e~~ information with said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ and to execut~~ing a~~ predetermined processing; and

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) information receiving means connected to said server, for receiving ITS information offered by said ITS,

said server comprising;

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first communication control means for communicating information with each of said at

least one ~~taxi~~vehicle;

first map-information storage means for storing map information for each area;

preset-charge storage means for storing service-charge information associated with ~~a~~ at

least one vehicle~~taxi~~ company; and

first control means connected to each of said first communication control means, said

first map-information storage means, and said preset-charge storage means, for controlling each

of said means,

wherein said first control means is operable to read~~s~~ from said first map-information

storage means map information corresponding to said destination information and said present-

location information received by said first communication control means, obtain~~s~~ said ITS

information from said ITS information receiving means, read~~s~~ said service-charge information

from said preset-charge storage means, and calculate~~s~~ in accordance with said map information,

with said ITS information, and with said service-charge information, said optimal route, a

distance from said present location to said destination associated with said optimal route, a

required driving time associated with said optimal route, and a charge for said optimal route.

19. (currently amended):   ~~A~~The transportation service system according to claim 18,

wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being

provided by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~,

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said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi <u>is configured to</u> transmits to said center equipment present-location information at the time of said change as new present-location information, and destination information indicating said new destination,——<u>and</u>in said center equipment;

said first communication control means <u>is operable to</u> receives said new present-location information and new destination information, and said first control means <u>is operable to</u> obtains new ITS information from said ITS information receiving means, reads from said first map-information storage means new map information corresponding to said new present-location information and said new destination information, and finds according to said new ITS information, to said new map information, and to said new service-charge information, a new optimal route, a distance from said new present location to said new destination designated by said new optimal route, a required driving time required by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi associated with said new optimal route, and a charge for said new optimal route.

20. (currently amended): A<u>The</u> transportation service system according to claim 12, wherein————<u>said</u> center equipment comprises:

a server <u>configured to</u> for communicat<u>e</u>ing information with said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi and <u>to</u> execut<u>e</u>ing a predetermined processing; and

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) information receiving means connected to said server<u>configured to</u>, for receiv<u>e</u>ing ITS information offered by said ITS;

said server having:

first communication control means for communicating information with each of said at

least one vehicletaxi;

first map-information storage means for storing map information for each area;

preset-charge storage means for storing service-charge information associated with a

taxitransportation company; and

first control means connected to each of said first communication control means, first

map-information storage means, and preset-charge storage means, for controlling each of said

first communication control means, first map-information storage means, and preset-charge

storage means,

wherein said first control means is operable to reads from said first map-information

storage means map information corresponding to said destination information and said present-

location information received by said first communication control means, obtains said ITS

information from said ITS information receiving means, reads said service-charge information

from said preset-charge storage means, and calculates for each of said plurality of different

criteriaitems, in accordance with said map information, with said ITS information, and with said

service-charge information, said respective optimal routes, a distance from said present location

to said destination associated with said respective optimal routes, a required driving time

associated with said respective optimal routes, and charges for said respective optimal routes.

21. (currently amended): A̶The transportation service system according to claim 20,

wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being

provided by said at least one vehicletaxi,

said at least one vehicletaxi is configured to transmits to said center equipment present-

location information at the time of said change as new present-location information, and

destination information indicating said new destination,

in said center equipment;

said first communication control means is configured to receives said new present-

location information and new destination information, and

said first control means is configured to obtains new ITS information from said ITS

information receiving means, to reads from said first map-information storage means new map

information corresponding to said new present-location information and said new destination

information, and to finds for each of said plurality of different items, according to said new ITS

information, to said new map information, and to said new service-charge information, new

respective optimal routes, a distance from said new present location to said new destination

designated by said new respective optimal routes, a required driving time required by said at

least one vehicletaxi associated with said new respective optimal routes, and charges for said

new respective optimal routes.

22. (currently amended): A̶The transportation service system according to claim 4,

wherein said center equipment comprises:

a server ~~configured to~~ ~~for~~ communicat~~ing~~e information with said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~

and executing a predetermined processing; and

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) information receiving means connected to said

server, for receiving ITS information offered by said ITS,

said server comprising:

first communication control means for communicating information with each of said at

least one at least one vehicle~~taxi~~;

first map-information storage means for storing map information for each area;

preset-charge storage means for storing service-charge information associated with a at

least one vehicle~~taxi~~ company; and

first control means connected to each of said first communication control means, first

map-information storage means, and preset-charge storage means, for controlling each of said

first communication control means, first map-information storage means, and preset-charge

storage means,

wherein said first control means is operable to read~~s~~ from said first map-information

storage means map information corresponding to said destination information and said present-

location information received by said first communication control means, obtains said ITS

information from said ITS information receiving means, reads said service-charge information

from said preset-charge storage means, finds according to said map information a plurality of

routes connecting said present location and destination, calculates according to said ITS

information a required driving time for each of said plurality of routes to determine that a

shortest-time route among said plurality of routes having the shortest required driving time is said optimal route, calculates according to said map information a distance from said present location to said destination associated with said shortest-time route, calculates a charge for said shortest-time route according to said service-charge information, generates information including shortest-time route information indicative of said shortest-time route, distance information indicative of said distance, and charge information indicative of said charge, and transmits said generated information via said first communication control means to said at least one vehicle, by adding address information of ~~said~~ a portable telephone terminal to said generated information.

23. (currently amended): ~~A~~The transportation service system according to claim 22, wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~,

said at least one vehicle is configured to~~taxi~~ transmits to said center equipment present-location information at the time of said change as new present-location information, and destination information indicating said new destination, ——in said center equipment;

said first communication control means is operable to receives said new present-location information and new destination information, and sends said received information to said first control means, and said first control means is operable to obtains new ITS information from said ITS information receiving means, reads from said first map-information storage means new map information corresponding to said new present-location information and said new destination information, finds according to said new map information a plurality of routes connecting said

new present location and new destination, calculates according to said ITS information a

required driving time for each of said new plurality of routes to determine that a new shortest-

time route among said new plurality of routes having the shortest required driving time is said

optimal route, calculates according to said new map information a distance associated with said

shortest-time route, calculates a charge for said new shortest-time route according to said

service-charge information, generates information including new shortest-time route information

indicative of said new shortest-time route, new distance information indicative of said distance,

and new charge information indicative of said charge, and transmits said generated information

via said first communication control means to said at least one vehicletaxi, by adding address

information of said portable telephone terminal to said generated information.

24. (currently amended):   AThe transportation service system according to claim 12,

wherein said center equipment comprises:

a server configured to for communicateing information with said at least one vehicle taxi

and to executeing a predetermined processing; and

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) information receiving means connected to said

server, configured to for receivinge ITS information offered by said ITS,

said server comprising:

first communication control means for communicating information with each of said at

least one vehicletaxi;

first map-information storage means for storing map information for each area;

preset-charge storage means for storing service-charge information associated with a ~~taxi~~

transportation company; and

first control means connected to each of said first communication control means, first

map-information storage means, and preset-charge storage means, for controlling each of said

first communication control means, first map-information storage means, and preset-charge

storage means,

wherein said first control means is operable to reads from said first map-information

storage means map information corresponding to said destination information and said present-

location information received by said first communication control means, obtains said ITS

information from said ITS information receiving means, reads said service-charge information

from said preset-charge storage means, finds according to said map information a plurality of

routes connecting said present location and destination, calculates according to said map

information a distance from said present location to said destination associated with each of said

plurality of routes to determine that a shortest-distance route among said plurality of routes is an

optimal route having the shortest distance, calculates according to said ITS information a

required driving time for each said plurality of routes to determine that a shortest-time route

among said plurality of routes is an optimal route having the shortest required driving time,

calculate_s according to said service-charge information a charge for each of said plurality of

routes to determine that a lowest-charge route among said plurality of routes is an optimal route,

generates information including information indicating said shortest-distance route and its

associated distance, information indicating said shortest-time route and its associated time, and

information indicating said lowest-charge route and its associated charge, and transmits said

generated information via said first communication control means to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi

by adding address information of said_a portable telephone terminal to said generated

information.

25. (currently amended): <u>The</u>A transportation service system according to claim 24,

wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being

provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi,

said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi <u>is configured to</u> transmits to said center equipment present-

location information at the time of said change as new present-location information, and

destination information indicating said new destination,

~~in said center equipment;~~

said first communication control means <u>is configured to</u> receives said new present-location

information and new destination information, and <u>to</u> sends said received information to said first

control means, and

said first control means <u>is configured to</u>

obtains new ITS information from said ITS information receiving means,

reads from said first map-information storage means new map information corresponding

to said new present-location information and said new destination information,

reads said service-charge information from said preset-charge storage means,

finds according to said new map information a plurality of routes connecting said new

present location and new destination,

calculates according to said ITS information a required driving time for each of said new

plurality of routes to determine that a shortest-time route among said new plurality of routes

having the shortest required driving time is said optimal route,

calculates according to said new map information a distance from said new present

location to said new destination associated with said new plurality of routes to determine that a

shortest-distance route among said plurality of routes is one of said optimal routes having the

shortest distance,

calculates according to said service-charge information a charge for each of said plurality

of routes to determine that a lowest-charge route among said plurality of routes is one of said

optimal routes having the lowest charge,

generates information including shortest-time route information indicative of said

shortest-time route, shortest-distance route information indicative of said shortest-distance route,

and lowest-charge route information indicative of said lowest-charge route, and

transmits said generated information via said first communication control means to said

at least one vehicletaxi by adding address information of said portable telephone terminal to said

generated information.

26. (currently amended): A~~The~~ transportation service system according to claim 23,

wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being

provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~,

said first control means <u>is configured to</u> calculates a first charge for a route from said new

present location to said destination according to said map information, said ITS information, and

said service-charge information, <u>to</u> calculates a second charge for a route from said new present

location to said new destination according to said new map information, to said new ITS

information, and to said service-charge information, <u>to</u> ~~-~~subtracts said second charge from said

first charge, ~~and~~<u>to</u> adds said second charge to said subtraction result to calculate said new charge.

27. (currently amended): A transportation service system according to claim 26, wherein

said first control means calculates a balance between said first charge and said new charge, and

transmits to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~ information on said balance together with information

regarding said first charge via said first communication control means.

28. (currently amended): A~~The~~ transportation service system according to claim 25,

wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being

provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~, said first control means calculates a first charge for a

route from said new present location to said destination according to said map information, said

ITS information, and said service-charge information, calculates a second charge for a route

from said new present location to said new destination according to said new map information, to

said new ITS information, and to said service-charge information, subtracts said second charge

from said first charge, and adds said second charge to said subtraction result to calculate said

new charge.

29. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 28,

wherein said first control means calculates a balance between said first charge and said new

charge, and transmits to said at least one vehicletaxi information on said balance together with

information regarding said first charge via said first communication control means.

30. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 22,

wherein said at least one vehicletaxi has said GPS terminal and second communication

control means connected to said GPS terminal, for communicating information with said center

equipment, said GPS terminal comprising;

        input means for inputting a destination specified by the customer,

        second map-information storage means for storing map information for each area,

        image display means for displaying an image, and

        second control means connected to said input means, second map-information storage

means, and image display means, for controlling each of said means,

        said second control means detecting said present-location information from radio waves

received from said GPS satellite, and sending to said first communication control means said

present-location information and destination information indicative of said destination inputted

from said input means,

said second communication control means sending to said center equipment said present-

location information and said destination information received from said second control means,

and sending to said second control means information received from said center equipment,

and

said second control means reading from said second map-information storage means map

information corresponding to said optimal route included in information received from said

second communication control means, displaying on said image display means said optimal

route by superposing the route on said map information, and displaying a distance from said

present location to said destination associated with said optimal route included in said

information transmitted from said center equipment, a required driving time associated with said

optimal route, and a charge for said optimal route.

31. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 24,

wherein————_said at least one vehicletaxi has said GPS terminal and second communication

control means connected to said GPS terminal configured to ,—for—communicateatinge

information with said center equipment, said GPS terminal comprising;

input means for inputting a destination specified by the customer,

second map-information storage means for storing map information for each area,

image display means for displaying an image, and

second control means connected to said input means, second map-information storage

means, and image display means, for controlling each of said means,

wherein said second control means is configured to detecting said present-location

information from radio waves received from said GPS satellite, and to sending to said first

communication control means said present-location information and destination information

indicative of said destination inputted from said input means,

said second communication control means is configured to sending to said center

equipment said present-location information and said destination information received from said

second control means, and to sending to said second control means information received from

said center equipment,

_and

said second control means is configured to reading from said second map-information

storage means map information corresponding to said respective optimal routes for each of said

plurality of different criteriaitems included in information received from said second

communication control means, to displaying on said image display means said respective

optimal routes by superposing the route on said map information, and to displaying a distance

from said present location to said destination associated with said respective optimal routes

included in said information transmitted from said center equipment, a required driving time

associated with said respective optimal routes, and charges for said respective optimal routes.

32. (currently amended): The~~A~~ transportation service system according to claim 30, wherein in said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~, said second communication control means is configured to receive~~s~~ new information sent from said center equipment,

said second control means is configured to read~~s~~ from said second map-information storage means new map information corresponding to said new optimal route included in said new information, and

said image display means is configured to display~~s~~ said new map information on which said new optimal route is superposed, and a distance from said new present location to said new destination associated with said new optimal route included in said new information, a required driving time associated with said new optimal route, and a charge for said new optimal route.

33. (currently amended): ~~A~~The transportation service system according to claim 31, wherein in said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~,

said second communication control means is configured to receive~~s~~ new information sent from said center equipment,

said second control means is configured to read~~s~~ from said second map-information storage means new map information corresponding to said respective new optimal routes for each of said plurality of different criteria~~items~~ included in said new information, and

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said image display means is configured to displays said new map information on which said respective new optimal routes are superposed, and to displays a distance from said new present location to said new destination associated with said respective new optimal routes included in said new information, a required driving time associated with said respective new optimal routes, and charges for said respective new optimal routes.

34. (currently amended): TheA transportation service system according to claim 32, wherein said center equipment is configured to administers information obtained for said optimal route for every vehicletaxi.

35. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 33, wherein said center equipment is configured to administers information obtained for said new optimal route for every vehicletaxi.

36. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 32, wherein, for every vehicletaxi, said center equipment is configured to administers said information obtained with respect to said respective optimal routes, which has been obtained for an optimal route selected by the customer from among said optimal routes.

37. (currently amended): AThe transportation service system according to claim 33, wherein, for every vehicletaxi, said center equipment is configured to administers said

information obtained with respect to said respective new optimal routes, which has been obtained

for an optimal route selected by the customer from among said new optimal routes.

38. (currently amended): A method of providing a transportation service in a system

which comprises at least one Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite, a GPS terminal, a center

equipment, and at least one ~~taxi~~ vehicle on which said GPS terminal is mounted, said method

comprising the steps of:

detecting by said GPS terminal its present location according to information for finding a

position of a moving object transmitted from said GPS satellite;

transmitting from said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ present-location information on said

present location, and destination information indicating a destination specified by a customer;

and

receiving by said center equipment said present-location information and said destination

information,

obtaining optimal-route information on an optimal route according to said present-

location information and destination information, and

transmitting information including said optimal-route information to said at least one

vehicle~~taxi~~.

39. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 38, further including a step of calculating by said center equipment charge information on

a charge for said optimal route according to said present-location information and destination

information, and transmitting information including said charge information to said <u>at least one</u>

<u>vehicle</u>taxi.

40. (currently amended): A<u>The</u> method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 39, further including a step of paying by the customer a charge indicated by said charge

information, before a transportation service is provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

41. (currently amended): <u>The</u>A method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 40, further including a step of obtaining by said center equipment distance information

regarding a distance from said present location to said destination associated with said optimal

route according to said present-location information and destination information, and

transmitting said information including said distance information to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

42. (currently amended): <u>The</u>A method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 41, further including a step of obtaining by said center equipment driving-time information

on a required driving time associated with said optimal route according to said present-location

information and destination information, and transmitting information including said driving-

time information to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

43. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method of providing a transportation service according to claim 42, wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~, said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ obtains by using said GPS terminal present-location information on a present location at the time of said change, and transmits to said center equipment said present-location information and destination information indicating said new destination, and wherein said center equipment obtains optimal-route information regarding a new optimal route according to said new present-location information and said new destination information, and transmits information including said optimal-route information to said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~.

44. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 43, said center equipment further obtains new charge information on a charge for said new optimal route according to said new present-location information and new destination information, and transmits said information including said new charge information to said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~.

45. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 44, the customer pays for a charge indicated by said new charge information, before said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ provides a transportation service associated with said new destination.

46. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to claim 45, said center equipment further obtains distance information on a distance from said new present location to said new destination associated with said new optimal route according to said new present-location information and new destination information, and transmits said information including said distance information to said at least one vehicletaxi.

47. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service according to claim 46, said center equipment further obtains driving-time information on a required driving time associated with said new optimal route according to said new present-location information and new destination information, and transmits said information including said driving-time information to said at least one vehicletaxi.

48. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service in a system which comprises at least one Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite, a GPS terminal, a center equipment, and at least one taxi-vehicle on which said GPS terminal is mounted, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting by said GPS terminal its present location according to information for finding a position of a moving object transmitted from said GPS satellite;

transmitting from said at least one vehicletaxi present-location information on said present location, and destination information indicating a destination specified by a customer; and

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receiving by said center equipment said present-location information and said destination information, finding as information respective optimal routes for each of plurality of different criteriaitems according to said present-location information and destination information, and transmitting information including said optimal-route information to said at least one vehicletaxi.

49. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service according to claim 48, further including a step of calculating by said center equipment charge information on charges for said respective optimal routes according to said present-location information and destination information, and transmitting information including said charge information to said at least one vehicletaxi.

50. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to claim 49, further including a step of selecting by the customer one of optimal routes before a transportation service is provided by said at least one vehicletaxi, and paying a charge indicated by said charge information on said selected optimal route.

51. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to claim 50, further including a step of obtaining by said center equipment distance information regarding a distance from said present location to said destination associated with said respective optimal routes according to said present-location information and destination information, and transmitting said information including said distance information to said at least one vehicletaxi.

52. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 51, further including a step of obtaining by said center equipment driving-time information on a required driving time associated with said respective optimal routes according to said present-location information and destination information, and transmitting information including said driving-time information to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~.

53. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 52, wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~, said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~ obtains by using said GPS terminal present-location information on a present location at the time of said change, and transmits to said center equipment said present-location information and destination information indicating said new destination, and wherein said center equipment finds respective new optimal routes for each of said plura<u>lity of</u> different <u>criteria</u>~~items~~ according to said new present-location information and said new destination information to obtain optimal-route information regarding a new optimal route, and transmits information including said optimal-route information to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~.

54. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 53, said center equipment further obtains new charge information on charges for said respective new optimal routes according to said new present-location information and new

destination information, and transmits said information including said new charge information to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

55. (currently amended): A<u>The</u> method of providing a transportation service according to claim 54, the customer selects an optimal route from among said respective new optimal routes before said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi provides a transportation service associated with said new destination, and pays for a charge indicated by charge information on said selected optimal route.

56. (currently amended): <u>The</u>A method of providing a transportation service according to claim 55, said center equipment further obtains distance information on a distance from said new present location to said new destination associated with said respective new optimal routes according to said new present-location information and new destination information, and transmits said information including said distance information to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

57. (currently amended): A <u>The</u> method of providing a transportation service according to claim 56, said center equipment further obtains driving-time information on a required driving time associated with said respective new optimal routes according to said new present-location information and new destination information, and transmits said information including said driving-time information to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>taxi.

58. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 57, wherein said plurality of different criteria~~items~~ include charges for said respective optimal routes, a distance from said present location to said destination associated with said respective optimal routes, and a required driving time required by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ associated with said respective optimal routes.

59. (currently amended): A method of providing a transportation service in a system which comprises at least one Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite, a GPS terminal, a portable telephone terminal, a center equipment, and at least one ~~taxi~~ vehicle on which said GPS terminal and portable telephone terminal are mounted, said center equipment having a communication controller, a controller, a map-information storage unit, a preset-charge information storage unit, and an ITS information receiver, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting by said GPS terminal its present location according to information for finding a position of a moving object transmitted from said GPS satellite;

transmitting from said portable telephone terminal present-location information on said present location and destination information indicating a destination specified by a customer of said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~;

receiving by said communication controller said present-location information and destination information, and reading from said map-information storage unit, under the control of said controller, map information corresponding to said present-location information and destination information;

finding by said controller according to said read map information, a plurality of routes

connecting said present location and destination;

receiving by said ITS information receiver ITS information provided by the ITS, and

acquiring said ITS information by said controller;

calculating by said controller according to said acquired ITS information a required

driving time for each of said plurality of routes;

determining by said controller an optimal route from said plurality of routes, which is a

shortest-time route having a shortest required driving time;

calculating by said controller according to said map information a distance between said

present location and destination associated with said shortest-time route;

reading from said preset-charge information storage unit under the control of said

controller, service-charge information associated with a ~~taxi~~ transportation company;

calculating by said controller according to said read service-charge information, a charge

for said shortest-time route; and

generating by said controller information including shortest-time route information

indicative of said shortest-time route, distance information indicative of said distance, and charge

information indicative of said charge, and transmitting said information from said

communication controller to said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~ by adding address information of said

portable telephone terminal to said generated information.

60. (currently amended): A method of providing a transportation service according to claim 59, wherein said customer pays for a charge indicated by said charge information, before a transportation service associated with said destination is provided by said at least one vehicletaxi.

61. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service according to claim 59, further comprising, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said at least one vehicletaxi, the steps of;

transmitting by said at least one vehicletaxi from said portable telephone terminal to said center equipment present-location information at the time of said change and destination information indicating said new destination;

receiving by said center equipment using said communication controller, said new present-location information and said new destination information,

reading from said map-information storage unit by said controller, new map information corresponding to said new present-location information and new destination information;

finding by said controller according to said new map information, a plurality of new routes connecting said new present location and said new destination;

receiving by said ITS information receiver ITS information provided by the ITS, and acquiring said ITS information by said controller;

calculating by said controller according to said acquired ITS information a required driving time for each of said plurality of new routes;

determining by said controller an optimal route from said plurality of new routes, which

is a new shortest-time route having the shortest required driving time;

calculating by said controller according to said new map information, a new distance

between said new present location and new destination associated with said new shortest-time

route;

calculating by said controller according to said service-charge information, a charge for

said new shortest-time route; and

generating by said controller information including shortest-time route information

indicative of said new shortest-time route, distance information indicative of said new distance,

and charge information indicative of said new charge, and transmitting said information from

said communication controller to said at least one vehicletaxi by adding address information of

said portable telephone terminal to said generated information.

62. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 61, wherein said customer pays for a charge indicated by said new charge information,

before a transportation service associated with said new destination is provided by said at least

one vehicletaxi.

63. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service in a system

which comprises at least one Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite, a GPS terminal, a

portable telephone terminal, a center equipment, and at least one taxi vehicle on which said GPS

terminal and portable telephone terminal are mounted, said center equipment having a communication controller, a controller, a map-information storage unit, a preset-charge information storage unit, and an ITS information receiver, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting by said GPS terminal its present location according to information for finding a position of a moving object transmitted from said GPS satellite;

transmitting from said portable telephone terminal present-location information on said present location and destination information indicating a destination specified by a customer of said at least one vehicletaxi;

receiving by said communication controller said present-location information and destination information, and reading from said map-information storage unit, under the control of said controller, map information corresponding to said present-location information and destination information;

finding by said controller according to said read map information, a plurality of routes connecting said present location and destination;

calculating by said controller according to said map information, a distance from said present location to said destination for each of said plurality of routes;

determining by said controller one of optimal routes which is a shortest route having the shortest distance among said plurality of routes;

receiving by said ITS information receiver ITS information provided by the ITS, and acquiring said ITS information by said controller;

calculating by said controller according to said acquired ITS information, a required

driving time for each of said plurality of routes;

determining by said controller one of optimal routes which is a shortest-time route having

a shortest required driving time among said plurality of routes;

reading from said preset-charge information storage unit under the control of said

controller, service-charge information associated with a ~~taxi~~ transportation company;

calculating by said controller according to said service-charge information, a charge for

each of said plurality of routes;

determining by said controller one of optimal routes which is a lowest-charge route

having a lowest charge among said plurality of routes; and

generating by said controller information including information indicating said shortest-

distance route and its distance, information indicating said shortest-time route and its time, and

information indicating said lowest-charge route and its charge, and transmitting said information

to said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~ by adding address information of said portable telephone terminal

to said generated information.

64. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 63, further including a step of selecting by the customer one of said optimal routes before a

transportation service associated with said destination is provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~,

and paying a charge indicated by said charge information on said selected optimal route.

65. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 64, further comprising, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~, the steps of;

transmitting by said <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~ from said portable telephone terminal to said center equipment present-location information at the time of said change and destination information indicating said new destination;

receiving by said center equipment using said communication controller, said new present-location information and said new destination information,

reading from said map-information storage unit by said controller, new map information corresponding to said new present-location information and new destination information;

finding by said controller according to said new map information, a plurality of new routes connecting said new present location and said new destination;

calculating by said controller according to said new map information a distance from said new present location to said new destination for each of said optimal routes;

determining by said controller a new route as one of optimal routes which is a shortest route having the shortest distance among said plural<u>ity of</u> routes;

acquiring by said controller new ITS information from said ITS information receiver;

calculating by said controller according to said acquired ITS information a required driving time for each of said plural<u>ity of</u> routes;

determining by said controller a new route as one of optimal routes, which is a shortest-time route among said plural<u>ity of</u> routes having the shortest required driving time;

calculating by said controller according to said service-charge information a charge for each of said plurality of routes;

determining by said controller a new route as one of optimal routes, which is a lowest-charge route among said plurality of routes having the lowest charge; and

generating by said controller information including new shortest-distance route information indicating said shortest-distance route, new shortest-time route information indicating said new shortest-time route, and new lowest-charge route information indicating said lowest-charge route, and transmitting said information to said at least one vehicletaxi by adding address information of said portable telephone terminal to said generated information.

66. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to claim 65, further including a step of selecting by the customer one of said new optimal routes before a transportation service associated with said new destination is provided by said at least one vehicletaxi, and paying a charge indicated by said charge information on said selected optimal route.

67. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to claim 62, wherein if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is being provided by said at least one vehicletaxi, said controller calculates a first charge for a route from said new present location to said destination according to said map information, to said ITS information, and to said service-charge information, calculates a second charge for a route from

said new present location to said new destination according to said new map information, to said

new ITS information, and to said service-charge information, subtracts said second charge from

said first charge, and adds said second charge to said subtraction result to calculate said new

charge.

68. (currently amended): A̶The method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 67, wherein said controller calculates a balance between said first charge and said new

charge, and transmits to said at least one vehicletaxi̶ information on said balance together with

information regarding said first charge via said communication controller.

69. (currently amended): TheA̶ method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 66, wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is

being provided by said at least one vehicletaxi̶, said controller calculates a first charge for a route

from said new present location to said destination according to said map information, to said ITS

information, and to said service-charge information, calculates a second charge for a route from

said new present location to said new destination according to said new map information, to said

new ITS information, and to said service-charge information, subtracts said second charge from

said first charge, and adds said second charge to said subtraction result to calculate said new

charge.

70. (currently amended): A̶The method of providing a transportation service according to claim 69, wherein said controller calculates a balance between said first charge and said new charge, and transmits to said at least one vehicle̶t̶a̶x̶i̶ information on said balance together with information regarding said first charge via said communication controller.

71. (currently amended): The̶A̶ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 59, wherein said at least one vehicle̶t̶a̶x̶i̶ receives by said portable telephone terminal information transmitted from said center equipment, reads from said map-information storage unit of said GPS terminal, under the control of a controller of said GPS terminal, map information corresponding to said optimal route included in said received information, displays on an image display said map information on which said optimal route is superposed, and displays a distance from said present location to said destination associated with said optimal route, a required driving time of said at least one vehicle̶t̶a̶x̶i̶ associated with said optimal route, and a charge for said optimal route, included in said information sent from said center equipment.

72. (currently amended): A̶ The method of providing a transportation service according to claim 63, wherein said at least one vehicle̶t̶a̶x̶i̶ receives by said portable telephone terminal information transmitted from said center equipment, reads from said map-information storage unit of said GPS terminal, under the control of a controller of said GPS terminal, map information corresponding to said optimal route included in said received information, displays

on an image display said map information on which said optimal route is superposed, and

displays a distance from said present location to said destination associated with said respective

optimal routes, a required driving time of said at least one vehicletaxi associated with said

respective optimal routes, and charges for said respective optimal routes, included in said

information sent from said center equipment.

73. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 59, wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is

being provided by said at least one vehicletaxi, said at least one vehicletaxi receives by said

portable telephone terminal new information sent from said center equipment, reads from said

map-information storage unit of said GPS terminal, under the control of a controller of said GPS

terminal, new map information corresponding to said new optimal route included in said new

information received from said center equipment, displays on an image display said new map

information on which said new optimal route is superposed, and displays a distance from said

new present location to said new destination associated with said new optimal route, a required

driving time of said at least one vehicletaxi associated with said new optimal route, and a charge

for said new optimal route, included in said new information.

74. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 63, wherein, if the customer changes the destination to a new destination when a service is

being provided by said at least one vehicletaxi, said at least one vehicletaxi receives by said

portable telephone terminal new information sent from said center equipment, reads from said

map-information storage unit of said GPS terminal, under the control of a controller of said GPS

terminal, new map information corresponding to said respective new optimal routes included in

said new information received from said center equipment, displays on an image display said

new map information on which said respective new optimal routes is superposed, and displays a

distance from said new present location to said new destination associated with said respective

new optimal routes, a required driving time of said at least one vehicletaxi associated with said

respective new optimal routes, and charges for said respective new optimal routes, included in

said new information.

75. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 73, wherein said center equipment administers information obtained for said optimal route

for every at least one vehicletaxi.

76. (currently amended): AThe method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 74, wherein said center equipment administers information obtained for said new optimal

route for every at least one vehicletaxi.

77. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 73, wherein, for every at least one vehicletaxi, said center equipment administers said

information obtained with respect to said respective optimal routes, which has been obtained for

an optimal route selected from among said optimal routes by the customer.

78. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 74, wherein, for every <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~, said center equipment administers said

information obtained with respect to said respective new optimal routes, which has been obtained

for an optimal route selected from among said new optimal routes by the customer.

79. (currently amended): A method of providing a transportation service, comprising the

steps of:

presenting to a customer by a <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~ driver a charge for a transportation

service corresponding to a destination specified by the customer when the customer gets in the <u>at</u>

<u>least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~; and

paying for said charge by the customer before said transportation service is provided by

the <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~.

80. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 79, wherein said charge is calculated according to a present location where the customer

gets in the <u>at least one vehicle</u>~~taxi~~ and to said destination.

81. (currently amended): A~~~The method of providing a transportation service according to claim 80, further comprising, if there is a change in the destination to a new destination during said transportation service is being provided by said at least one vehicle~~taxi~~, the steps of;

calculating a new charge according to a present location at the time of said change and said new destination, said new charge being presented to the customer by the driver; and

paying by the customer said new charge before said transportation service associated with said new destination is provided by the at least one vehicle~~taxi~~.

82. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service according to claim 81, wherein said charge is calculated for an optimal route between said present location and said destination.

83. (currently amended): The~~A~~ method of providing a transportation service, comprising the steps of:

finding respective optimal routes between a destination specified by a customer when the customer gets in ~~the~~a taxi and a present location ~~at the time of said change~~, for respective different criteria~~items~~;

calculating for said respective optimal routes charges for said transportation service provided by the ~~taxi~~vehicle;

presenting to a customer by a ~~taxi~~ vehicle driver each of said charges calculated respectively for said optimal routes; and

selecting by the customer one of said optimal routes, and paying by the customer for a

charge for said selected optimal route, before said transportation service is provided by the

taxivehicle.

84. (currently amended): TheA method of providing a transportation service according to

claim 83, further comprising, if there is a change in the destination to a new destination during

said transportation service is being provided by said taxivehicle, the steps of;

finding new optimal routes between a new destination at the time of said change and said

new destination, for said respective different items;

calculating new charges for said transportation service provided by the taxivehicle, for

each of said new optimal routes;

presenting to the customer by the taxi-vehicle driver each of said new charges calculated

for each of said new optimal routes; and

selecting by the customer one of said new optimal routes, and paying by the customer a

charge for said selected optimal route, before said transportation service associated with said new

destination is provided by the taxivehicle.